

MAY 19 2004

I am here today representing the Illinois Office of Coal Development (Bill Hoback, chief of the office, could not be here today). I would like to point out that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Bureau of Energy and Recycling wanted to attend in order to make supportive comments about the sequestration program. Unfortunately, their schedule did not permit them to do so. But, they will later submit written comments. We have come to express our enthusiastic support of our partners at the USDOE and the Illinois State Geological Survey.

Like many people who are beginning to understand the subject matter of this meeting, it wasn't long ago that the only ~~thing~~ things sequestered in America were juries ... usually in major criminal trials ... perhaps, as often as not, in a rendition from Hollywood.

Today, as we address the realities of making our world a safer place, sequestration of carbon is a scientific phrase that our folks are using quite often as we travel about the state.

Anyone who is in our line of work ... anyone who realizes the challenges to fossil fuels as an energy source of the future ... needs to help the Department of Energy and other advocates make our case to the public.

We can, and we must proceed aggressively toward multiple carbon sequestration strategies.

Our future as a nation, we believe, depends on the cleaner use of fossil fuels, specifically in our case

Illinois coal. It is reliable, affordable and secure. But in saying that it is our responsibility ... and the responsibility of our coal producers and users ... to be four square behind the kind of progress that DOE, ISGS and others are making to harness greenhouse gases.

Having said that, I'll take just a minute more to emphasize how critical this work is to our people and to our state:

- **Like many coal-mining regions, Illinois has suffered a great loss of jobs and economic activity since the first days of the clean air act. We cannot reverse that trend by stomping our feet. And, as you know, no state in the nation puts the kind of resources that Illinois does into helping develop cleaner technologies for burning or processing coal ... and for more advanced use of coal combustion byproducts.**
- **We applaud the advances made to date by the DOE Office of Fossil Energy, which was on the cutting edge of sequestration technology as far back as 1999.**
- **We agree with the assessment that sequestration techniques and practices must provide stable, long-term storage ... be cost competitive ... and have no negative effects on the environment.**
- **We are impressed by the potential for underground storage of CO₂ in the staggering amounts of 300 to 3,000 gigatons of carbon. But that kind of capacity is necessary, we believe, if we are to provide a real and appreciable impact on greenhouse gas reduction.**
- **Our state, we believe, has great promise for the underground sequestration of CO₂. The Illinois**

Coal Basin underlies 80 percent of the surface of Illinois. We have more unminable seams of coal than almost anywhere else in the United States. We have, in addition, oil and gas fields from which additional resources could be derived to support a major sequestration effort.

- **Governor Blagojevich and our Illinois congressional delegation are steadfast behind Illinois' bid to host DOE's forward-looking FutureGen initiative. I am proud to say that they are joined by our coal industry, our environmental community and the working-men and women of the coal-fields of Illinois.**

I thank you for the opportunity to speak. We have a strong team in Illinois, and I'm proud to be part of it.